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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 TRSE-00 EA-09 /111 W
----------261854Z 059873 /45
P 261730Z MAY 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6159
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SF, US, PFOR
SUBJ: AFRIKAANS NEWSPAPER ADVOCATES APPEAL TO
AMERICAN PEOPLEAGAINST CARTER ADMINISTRATION POLICY

REF: CAPE TOWN 0862

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MAY 24 EDITORIAL IN LEADING
AFRIKAANS NEWSPAPER, "DIE BURGER", ON CONFRONTING "THE
NEW AGGRESSIVE CARTER APPROACH TO SA" WITH AN APPEAL TO
AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION.

2. "A FEW YEARS AGO AN AMERICAN PROFESSOR, WITH
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PROFOUND AND SYMPATHETIC KNOWLEDGE OF SOUTH AFRICAAN
TESTIFIED ABOUT OUT COUNTRY BEFORE A CONGRESSIONAL
COMMITTEE. (THERE ARE SUCH PEOPLE IN THE US AS WELL,
MORE THAN MOST SOUTH AFRICANS REALISE, FOR WE USUALLY
HEAR ONLY THE OTHER SIDE).

3. "HE POINTED OUTH THE HIGH POLCNY-MAKERS IN WASHINGTON

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FREQUENTLY, WITHE THE VERY BEST IDEALISTIC INTENTIONS, MAKE GRAND DECISIONS WHICH MAY HAVE QUITE A DIFFERENT EFFECT LOWER DOWN FROM WHAT IS ENVISAGED ABOVE. HIS EXAMPLE WAS THE AMERICAN ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA, INTRODUCED TO GAIN BLACK FRIENDSHIP.

4. "IN THE NORTHERN TRANSVAAL THE RESULT WAS THAT THE PRINCIPAL OF TURFLOOP AT THE TIME, A BIG GAME HUNTER, COULD NO LONGER PROCURE THE BEST AMMUNITION TO SHOOT THE STRAY LIONS THAT KILLED THE CATTLE OF BLACK FARMERS. HE HAD TO EXPLAIN TO HIS BLACK CLIENTS THAT THE CAUSE OF THEIR CRISIS WAS DUE TO AN AMERICAN ATTEMPT TO HELP PEOPLE LIKE THEM*

5. "THE NEW AGGRESSIVE CARTER APPROACH TO SA, AS DIRECTLY INTERPRETED TO US BY MESSRS. MONDALE AND YOUNG, BUBBLES WITH HIGH-SOUNDING WORDS AND LIFTY INTENTIONS. IN THE FIELD, ON THE LEVEL OF POLITICAL PRACTICE AND ACTION, IT NEVERTHELESS RUNS THE RISK OF BOILING DOWN TO MORE ADDITIONAL INCITEMENT OF BLACK AGAINST WHITE IN ANOTHER MAN'S COUNTRY. ALREADY WE HAVE SEEN SOME OF IT DEMONSTRATED BY CERTAIN EVENTS IN THE COURSE OF MR. YOUNG'S VISIT TO JOHANNESBURG.

6. "IN HER RELATIONS WITH OFFICIAL AMERICA, SOUTH AFRICA THUS FAVES THE SERIOUS PROSPECT OF A NEW FACTOR OF RACIAL INCITEMENT FROM THE OUTSIDE. ESENTIALLY MORE DANGEROUS THAN THAT FROM MOSCOW BECAUSE OF ITS MORE RESPECTABLE GUISE. THE IMPLIATIONS OF THIS FOR SOUTH
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AFRICA AND THE ENTIRE SOUTHERN AFRICAN SITUATION ARE FAR REACHING, AND WITHIN OUR COUNTRY THESE WILL NOW HAVE TO BE FACED AND ULTIMATELY SORTED OUT.

7. "THIS MUST NOT BE OUR ONLY DEFENCE. WE MUST GO TO THE SOURCE OF A POLICY WHICH, ON GOOD GROUNDS, WE SEE AS PRACTICALLY WRONG, BADLY CONCEIVED, OR DOUBTFUL MORALITY AND POTENTIALLY DISASTROUS. THAT SOURCE IS AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION WHERE THERE ARE ALREADY SIGNS OF A BACKLASH AGAINST THE MERGENCE OF AN ILL-CONSIDERED, ESTATIC AND UNIVERSALIST IDEALISM WHICH COULD BE ALL THE MORE DANGEROUS BECAUSE IT IS SEMI-RELIGIOUSLY MOTIVATED. AMERICANS, LIKE ALL OTHER PEOPLE, ARE IN THE FIRST PLACE CONCERNED OVER DANGES TO THEMSELVES, AND IT IS THESE DANGERS THAT MUST BE SPELT OUT TO THEM RATHER THAN THE DANGERS TO US.

8. "MORE SPECIFICALLY, IN THE CASE OF SA, WE THINK OF THE DANGERS OF FOMENTING AND AGGREVATING, KNOWINGLY

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OR UNKNOWKINGLY, RACIAL CONFRONTATION ELSEWHERE FROM A
COUNTRY WHERE THE WOUNDS OF RACIAL CONFLICT IN THE
RECENT PAST ARE STILL AS RAW AS IN THE US. CERTAINLY
AN EVEN WORSENING BLACK-WHITE STUGGLE IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA HAS THE POTENTIAL OF SPLITTING THE AMERICAN NATION
FROM TOP TO BOTTOM AS NEVERSINCE THEIR CIVIL WAR. THE
AGONY OF A SMALL WHITE NATION, PRESENTED (AS WILL
HAPPEN) AS BEING PARTLY THE RESULT OF A DEMOCRATIC ATTEMPT
TO CONSOLIDATE THE AMERICAN BLACK VOTE AND OUTBID RUSSIAN
IMPERIALISM FOR THE FAVOUR OF THE BLACK DESPOTISMS OF
AFRICA, IS NOT A PROSPECT WHICH ANY AMERICAN POLITICAN
WOULD WELCOME ONCE HE HAS THOUGH IT OVER.

9. "A CHARGE ALREADY LEVELLE, NOT FROM HERE BUT FROM
THE LIBERAL AMERICAN SIDE, STILL REMAINS TO BE
ANSWERED. THIS IS THAT THE AMERICAN APPROACH TO AFRICA
IS NOW BASICALLY RACIST. AFTER ALL, IT EMPHASIZES THE
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EVILS OF "WHITE DICTATORSHIP" AND "WHITE MINORITY
GOVERNMENT", WITH THE IMPLICATION THAT THE NUMEROUS
BLACK DICTATORSHIPS OF AFRICA (WHICH CANNOT OR WILL NOT
RPOVE WITH FREE ELECTIONS THAT THEY ARE MAJORITY OVERN-
MENTS) ARE MORALLY MORE ACCEPTABLE TO AMERICA. THUS THE
US OF PRESIDENT CARTER BECOMES A FELLOW-TRAVELLER OF
BLACK TYRANNY (AND OF MOSCOW) IN THE STRIVING AFTER THE
DOWNFALL OF A SMALL AFRICAN NATION WHICH IN HER VALUES
AND CIVILISATION IS MUCH NEARER TO THE AMERICANS THEN
THE AGGRESSORS AND NEVER DID OR WISHED AMERICAN ANY HARM.

10. "IN BRIEF, NEW DIALECTICS WILL ARISE ROUND THE
CARTER POLICY WITH DISRUPTIVE POSSIBILITIES WHICH, IN
THE CASE OF INCREASING VIOLENCE IN SOUTHERN AGRICA,
COULD REACH A VIETNAMESE EMOTIONAL INTENSITY.

1. "THAT POLICY IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING SHAPED.
SOUTH AFRICA IS NOT WITHOUT MEANS TO INFLUENCE AMERICAN
PROCESSES IN ORDER TO BRING IT NEARER TO THE DEMANDS OF
STATESMANSHIP." BOWDLER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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